

**Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting  
Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists  
September 13, 2021**

**Present:** Jennifer Anderson, Jacob Benda, Joyce Brown, Isaac Drewes, Nils Halker,  
Kathrine Handford, Kristina Langlois, Stacie Lightner, Kris Rizzotto, Lise Schmidt

**Absent:** Dave Geslin, Laura Potratz, John Varona

**Also present:** Chaplain John Setterlund

**Call to Order** by Dean Jacob Benda at 6:30 PM, Virtual Meeting via the Zoom App.

The meeting began with a reflection by Chaplain John Setterlund. He then shared two interesting quotes with us: "Every musician has the opportunity to make the art (music) better and better each time it is performed" and "the organ makes singers of us all."

The agenda for this meeting was approved.

**Motion:** Lise Schmidt moved to approve the May 2021 Minutes.

Second: Nils Halker

**Motion carried**

The board had a gathering discussion on the topic of how and when we were introduced to the AGO, and why we want to serve on the board.

**Report Secretary:** There is no report this month

**Report Treasurer:** There is no report this month

**Report Sub Dean:** Jennifer Anderson gave an outline of the program year.

-The opening event scheduled for October 17 at Northrop Auditorium bringing together the Documentary Premier, the performance by Hector Olivera and the reception has been postponed due to necessary precautions with the pandemic. It has been rescheduled to June 2022. The event will also include a presentation by Hector Olivera the following evening.

-The Mid-Winter Workshop is presently being put together.

-The Bach Birthday Bash will be a full day of events on March 19, 2022.

-The remaining concerts and events are being worked on with a flexible planning and process due to the complications of the ongoing pandemic.

## **Report** Nils Halker: Update on the Organ Heritage Committee

-There will be an organ crawl, November 13, featuring four historic instruments in Western Wisconsin. The stops include Peace Lutheran in Menomonie (1974 Van Daalen), First Congregational UCC in Menomonie (1894 J.W. Steere & Son), Mabel Tainter Center for the Arts in Menomonie (1890 Steer & Son), and Living Vine Church in Hudson (1863/1872 George Jardine & Son). There will be car pools available and lunch will be on our own in Menomonie.

There was discussion regarding pandemic precautions.

## **Report** Dean Jacob Benda

-The Regional Convention will be July 4-7, 2023 with a potential add on day July 8. The Hilton Hotel will be the base. Other venues and artists are all being reconsidered at this time. A motion was made seconded and passed to appoint David Jenkins and Kathrine Handford as Coordinators heading up the Convention.

- Laura Edman, Chair of the Membership Committee, and David Jenkins are working together to contact current members and those who haven't renewed their memberships. They are seeking volunteers to help them. Currently we have 260 paid members, 49 not paid, and 21 cancelled.

-The board thanks Merritt Nequette for the many years of service in editing our *Pipenotes* Newsletter. Starting in October, Kirsten Uhlenberg will take on the job of being editor. All news items need to be sent to Kirsten by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication at [kirsten213@gmail.com](mailto:kirsten213@gmail.com).

-There is an AGO Organ Scholar Program being started by National. This would be a one year internship with a ministry program somewhere in the United States. National would contribute 10K, the local chapter 10K, and the local institution 10K. October 15 is the deadline for applications. This program would take place for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 program years. The program relies on combined investments and the housing and insurance would come from the church sponsoring the student.

-A general discussion followed regarding events and mask requirements. The Program Committee doesn't feel like they can make the decisions for the various venues. Questions of vaccine requirements, distancing and masks remains unanswered at this time. It is clear that we (TCAGO Board) need to be clear about our expectations and honor safety requirements and be as safe as possible. It will probably be determined on a case by case basis.

-There was continued discussion of digitizing the annual directory. There was discussion regarding privacy and who has access to member's personal information. This will be decided at a later date.

**Motion:** Jennifer Anderson moved to close the meeting.

**Second:** Nils Halker

**Motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

Joyce Brown, Secretary

